

## A BILL

FOR AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS TO CONSTRUCT, KEEP UP AND MAINTAIN FREE PUBLIC BRIDGES OVER STREAMS DIVIDING THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTIES.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa :*

SECTION 1. That boards of supervisors in adjoining counties, each of which contain a population of ten thousand (10,000) or more inhabitants, shall have authority to construct across any stream dividing said counties, a free public bridge, to be kept up and maintained jointly by said counties, providing the cost of constructing said bridge shall not exceed twenty thousand (\$20,000) dollars.

SEC. 2. If the board of supervisors in adjoining counties, where a bridge is needed, can agree as to building and maintaining said bridge, and the proportion each shall pay, then such agreement shall be reduced to writing, signed by the chairmen of the respective boards, and spread on the minutes of their proceedings, and the bridge built as by law provided. But where the boards of supervisors are unable to agree, the county desiring to build a free public bridge, may enter special proceedings in the circuit court of either county; said cause to be considered an equitable cause, and the court shall determine whether there is a public necessity for such bridge, the relative benefit it will be to the two counties, and based upon the benefits determine the amount each county shall bear in the cost of building and maintaining the same; either or both parties having the right to appeal to the supreme court. Upon the rendering of a decree to build said bridge, it shall be the duty of said respective boards of supervisors to at once proceed to the building, and levy the necessary tax to make payment; and said counties shall thereafter keep up and maintain such bridge in safe condition, and be jointly responsible for damages arising from same.

SEC. 3. This act being deemed of immediate importance, shall take effect on and after its publication in the State Leader and State Register, newspapers published in Des Moines, Iowa.